

# Project Summary and Resource Determination Form – 20190221 Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest

## 1.0 Project Information

<b>Responsible Official has approved Project Proposal:</b> Y	<b>Comment Due Date:</b> 10/10/2019
<b>Project Title:</b> Rock Dipper Merge	
<b>Project Lead/Manager:</b> Ben Kraja	
<b>Applicant/Proponent (if applicable):</b> Alta Ski Area	
<b>District(s) (Select all that apply):</b> Salt Lake Ranger District	
<b>General Location:</b> Alta Ski Area, Supreme Lift, Big Dipper Ski Run, Salt Lake County, Utah.	
<b>Elevation Range (feet):</b> 9,942 to 9,993 feet	
<b>Legal Land Description:</b> T3E R3S Section 9	
<b>County(s) (Select all that apply):</b> Salt Lake	
<b>Project Map Included:</b> Yes	<b>GIS Shapefiles Included:</b> N
<b>Amount of new disturbance (acres):</b> 0.36 acres	
<b>Amount of previous disturbance (acres):</b> 0 acres	
<b>Amount of TOTAL disturbance (acres):</b> 0.36 acres	
<b>Duration of Project:</b> In conjunction with Supreme Grading project – summer of 2020	
<b>Management Prescription(s) (Select all that apply):</b> 4.5 (Developed Recreation Areas)	
<b>Type of NEPA (Select One):</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CE <input type="checkbox"/> EA <input type="checkbox"/> EIS	
<b>If CE, list Category (select all that apply):</b> <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>36 CFR 220.6(e)(3)</b> <i>Approval, modification, or continuation of minor special uses on NFS lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land.</i>	

## 2.0 Project Summary

### **Purpose and Need:**

The purpose of this project is to improve skier flow in the Rock Dipper area where the Big Dipper and Rock 'N Roll runs merge.

The Big Dipper ski run is an intermediate ski run that is accessed from the Supreme chairlift. While it is currently the easier way down from the top of the lift, the bottom part of this run requires skiers to navigate a counter-fall-line slope that narrows to a cat track road and then merges with the Sleepy Hollow ski run, an advanced ski run, at a 90 degree angle. This is often challenging for intermediate skiers, particularly during the early season when a limited snowpack may be present.

Terrain modifications to the Sleepy Hollow ski run approved in Alta's December 2018 Environmental Assessment included lowering the grade of the Sleepy Hollow run at Big Dipper merge. This would increase the grade of the Big Dipper merge and the speed of many intermediate skiers using the merge. The terrain improvements to the Sleepy Hollow ski run would also increase the skier traffic on this run. This project would address concerns regarding potential skier safety and improve skier flow.

The project would modify the Big Dipper ski run to merge with another intermediate ski run, the Rock 'N Roll ski run. This would allow skiers to follow the natural fall line and merge with skiers traveling in the same direction. The lower grade would facilitate slower speeds for merging skiers from two trails, and provide better visibility and more space (see the map below).

### **Proposed Action:**

The Big Dipper ski run would be modified by filling a depression between the Big Dipper ski run and the Rock 'N Roll ski run to create an approximately a 10 percent grade between the runs. The regrading would facilitate merging skiers. This area is known as Rock Dipper. Currently there is non-groomed access between the runs during the ski season.

The depression between the ski runs is approximately 12 feet deep and would be filled with approximately 2,500 square feet of cut material from the Sleepy Hollow terrain change project. The area of disturbance would be approximately 100 by 160 feet (approximately 16,000 square feet). Filling this area would allow the area to be groomed and allow skier traffic on the Big Dipper ski run (the easier way from the top), to merge onto the lower park of Rock 'N Roll. The upper part of Rock 'N Roll is often closed on storm days due to avalanche danger.

Prior filling the depression, native plant plugs and topsoil would be removed and saved for revegetation of the filled slope. The Alta Environmental Center would oversee the revegetation of the project area and would use a seed mix approved by the Forest Service, native vegetation plugs removed prior filling, and native plants grown from seed gathered from the area. Approximately 1,000 native plants per acre would be planted in this area for three consecutive years to facilitate revegetation of the filled area. Two mature spruce trees would be cut in the project area. Best Management Practices would be used for erosion control and revegetation of the filled area.

A wetland survey was completed by Cirrus Ecological Solutions, LC. Wetlands do not occur in the project area. The depression/swale does not have a high-water mark so the feature would not be considered jurisdictional water of the US by the Corps of Engineers. A 6-inch wrapped drainpipe would be placed in the depression to allow surface water to flow through the filled area and not created a pool on the uphill side of the filled area.

This project would be done in conjunction with the terrain modifications on the Sleepy Hollow ski run and Devils Castle Cat Track. Equipment used for the Supreme terrain modification project (excavator, haul truck, grader) would be used to fill and grade the area. Access to the area would be via the existing Supreme Access Road.

This project is scheduled for the summer of 2020.

### **Required Design Criteria as per Resource Determinations:**

Implement ski area BMPs.

### 3.0 Map



